



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of New York*

100 South Clinton Street

Room 900; P.O. Box 7198

Syracuse, New York 13261-7198

(315) 448-0672

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NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today the sentencing of a Syracuse man for conspiracy to possess and possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

DEYON SMITH, 37, of Syracuse, New York, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Norman A. Mordue to 120 months imprisonment for his plea of guilty to conspiring to possess with intent to distribute and distribute more than 500 grams of a mixture or substance containing cocaine between 2005 and August 2008. SMITH played a role in a large scale cocaine-by-mail conspiracy in which numerous kilograms of cocaine were mailed from a source of supply in Los Angeles, California, to SMITH and others, who re-distributed the drugs in smaller weights to Syracuse area buyers. In return for the cocaine, SMITH, using an intermediary, mailed hundreds of thousands of dollars to California to pay for the drugs he received. After serving his term of imprisonment, SMITH will be placed on supervised release for 8 years. He was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$100.

The SMITH case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Postal Service, and the Internal Revenue Service.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carl G. Eurenus, who can be reached at 448-0672.